

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, 17-19, 21-28, 30-32, 34-40 and 42 were pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, 17-19, 21-28, 30-32, 34-40 and 42 and objected to Claims 8, 21 and 24. This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action. Applicants amend Claims 1, 14, 27, 40 and cancel Claims 8, 21, 34. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 8, 21 and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 14, 27 and 40 to recite similar elements of Claims 8, 21 and 34 indicated in the Office Action as allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of independent Claims 1, 14, 27 and 40 and all claims depending therefrom.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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